

**PUBLIC CR OSOTING COMPANY**



TO: Mr. H. R. Horner, Indpls., Ind.

OFFICE: St. Louis Park, Minn.

FROM: H. L. Danz

DATE: June 30, 1938

SUBJECT: STILLS-NUMBER ONE BATTERY-FIRE AND EXPLOSION.

Complying with your letter of June 21st. We are sending you herewith reports on condition of stills of first battery No. 1-2-3-4.

The last reports we submitted on the condition of these stills was in February this year, and we indicated at that time the life of this battery was practically exhausted. The welded joints were opening up continuously. No. 1 still has been rewelded in eighteen places as indicated by the report. The length of welds being from 6" to 24" long. The bottom is very distorted, and we believe it safe to say that even if the explosion had not occurred we were very near, if not already at the point, where it would be a definite hazard to continue the use of this still. Referring to the report you will note No. 1 still had 404 coking runs before the new bottom was welded on in 1935, since then 376 coking runs have been made or a total of 780 runs. The brick-work surrounding this still is in a dilapidated condition.

The report covering Still No. 2 reveals 6 rewelded places in the joints and two cracks which opened up during the fire. This still has not given as much trouble from seams opening as No. 1 still. However, the general condition is much the same as No. 1. Before the new bottom was welded on in 1935, 394 coking runs had been made, since then 361 coking runs have been added or a total of 755 coking runs. The brick-work of this setting is in very poor shape.

Still No. 3 suffered the worst in the recent fire. The most damaging explosion occurred in this still. Notations on the report covering this still indicate it is practically destroyed. This still had 418 coking runs before the new bottom was welded on in 1935, since then 352 runs were made, or a total of 770 coking runs.

Referring to the report on No. 4 still, we find 7 places rewelded 6" to 48" long, and 4 cracks which opened up during the explosion. The general condition of this still and setting is much the same as the first three stills of this battery covered by this report. No. 4 still had 427 coking runs up to 1935 when the new bottom was installed and 349 runs since or a total of 776 coking runs.

In our opinion the limit has been reached in the life of this battery of stills, and any attempt to rebuild them for continued use would be a mistake.

Mr. McLellan will write the home office in a few days when additional information will be available.

Yours very truly,

HLD:LK

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